

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Bradford Forest Inc

#### Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

#### Bradford Forest, Inc. Reduces Lead Time with Lean

##### Client Profile:

Bradford Forest Products, located in Bradford, Pennsylvania manufactures rough lumber, millwork, flooring, and cabinet parts. The company employs 125 people.

##### Situation:

Bradford Forest began its introduction to Lean Manufacturing via various Lean classes conducted by the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate. Bradford Forest wanted to continue the Lean journey and continue the improvements in their manufacturing process. The company contacted NWIRC for assistance.

##### Solution:

NWIRC worked with Bradford Forest's Lean Steering Group building upon the Lean manufacturing training they had already received. NWIRC's primary focus was on 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) for the workplace. 5S philosophy focuses on effective work place organization and standardized work procedures, simplifying the work environment, reducing waste and non-value activity while improving quality efficiency and safety. After the training, each employee met with the facilitator to discuss their areas and how 5S could be applied to improve the work environment. Organization, visual controls, ergonomics, and flow were all part of the project emphasis. As a result of NWIRC's assistance, major improvements were made in the storage and retrieval of raw lumber stock. Also, the shipping area was redesigned and organized for fast identification of finished product. Previous work on Kanban was enhanced by the 5S effort. Finally, maintenance built lockers from excess stock for each worker to have a private place to keep personal items that were cluttering up work areas.

##### Results:

- \* Potential to increase sales by \$200,000.
- \* Potential to increase retained sales by \$500,000.
- \* Estimated cost savings of \$50,000.
- \* Potential to create 10 jobs.
- \* Projected cost savings of \$50,000.
- \* Reduced reject rate by 85 percent.
- \* Reduced lead time from 15 days to 5 days.

##### Testimonial:

"The guidance and support NWIRC has provided us has introduced the 'Lean Principle' thinking into our daily processes and has not only affected our manufacturing, but has also benefited those involved in the process,

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Steve Sabatini, General Manager